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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Paradise Road, ca. 1900, looking northwest. Hastings Homestead Collection.

PARADISE ROAD: A BRIEF HISTORY (Part II) **by Margaret Joy Tibbetts**

Editor's Note: This is the second and final part of a history presented at the May 4, 1989 monthly meeting, which has been revised and expanded since that presentation. The page 1 photo, through a printer's error, was not the one intended for this article. The one in the summer issue was a view from the Pinnacle. The one originally selected for the first half of the article appears above.

UPPER PARADISE

The area above the entrance to Eden Lane extending to the Pinnacle until after World War II had very few residences. In the pre-World War II years, there were at least two summer camps there. In addition, Charles Cross had a small cabin he built himself on the lot presently owned by Carolyn Chadbourne O'Brien, but it was not an area of year-round residence. In the winter the road was not plowed. In the 19th century some of Upper Paradise was apparently used for pasture, since there are stone walls around in the woods; there were also some garden spots and apple trees. Lapham in the *Bethel History* describes Paradise as better known for its view than for its agri-

culture. There were certainly more desirable farming areas in Bethel; near the top of the hill the soil is thin over the granite in many places and generally rocky.

The local men who owned land on the upper part of the hill seem to have been content to hold it largely for speculation. It can be assumed that taxes on this undeveloped land were relatively low. In any event there was not for many years any real effort to sell off or to develop Upper Paradise.

THE EAST SIDE OF UPPER PARADISE, GOING UP THE HILL

Einar and Lillian Coburn Mason: The Coburn family had owned land on Paradise since 1873. Shortly before World War II (about 1939) Leslie and Grace Coburn, who had lived in the present Hitchcock house on Lower Paradise, moved up the hill beyond the present Eden Lane to the house occupied today by their daughter, Lillian Coburn Mason, and her husband. The present house had been a camp near the Pinnacle which Leslie and Grace bought from its Massachusetts owner and moved down to their

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lot. It has been much enlarged and remade. They later carried on a poultry and florist business here.

At that time this residence seemed very distant from the town. The snow plow was often several hours late in working its way to their home. (Snow plows were, of course, smaller and less sturdy at that time.) My mother often spoke admiringly of the vision shown by Grace and Leslie in choosing so lovely a spot, some others wondered "what they wanted to go way up there for."

George and Danna Nickerson: The Nickerson's home is down from the road. They bought the land in 1985 from Robert Chadbourne who had acquired it from Mike Coburn. Jimmy Knight put up the frame of their house, and George and Danna built the rest themselves.

Colwyn and Judy Haskell: The Haskells bought their land from Grace Coburn in 1962. Their house was built by Haakon Olson.

Tim and Judy Kersey: Joan and Rudy Royer bought this lot from Grace Coburn in 1961, and had the house built. The next owner was Paul Helforth who worked at the Andover Satellite Station; he sold to the Kerses in 1968.

Kenneth and Sally Ramage: The Ramages bought the land from Grace Coburn in 1957. Stanley Davis built their house.

Madeline Gibbs: Guy and Madeline Gibbs bought their land in 1954 from William Chapman, Marshall Hastings' son-in-law. The house was built by Stanley Davis. When they first moved to the hill, the snow plow would plow up to their home and then turn back.

Robert and Carolyn Chadbourne O'Brien: This too was originally Hastings land. In the 1930s Charlie Cross had a small camp here which he had built himself and where he stayed a good part of the time. In the 1950s the upper part of the lot - across from Dexter Stowell's driveway - belonged to Billy and Fenton Robertson who had two small houses here. In 1972, Dexter Landers bought the Robertson land, removed the houses, one of which had collapsed under the weight of the snow, and bought the remainder of the lot from William Chapman. The Landers had the present house erected on the site. In 1978 the land and house were sold to Carolyn Chadbourne O'Brien.

Rodney Lynch: The first resident here in the 1960s was Jim Cobb who bought the land from William Chapman and put up the house. Later occupants were the Ronald Coulombe and the John Raynes families. In 1976, Carolyn O'Brien bought the property and had the house enlarged and renovated. It was sold in 1985 to Rodney Lynch, then town manager of Bethel. It is now rented; current tenants are Tom and Barbara Reed.

Manning Chapman: This house came from the residence of Leland and Barbara Brown on Railroad Street, where it had been used as a gift shop. In 1954, it was moved to Paradise to land bought by Robert Chapman (Manning Chapman's brother) from William Chapman; Manning Chapman has lived there since that time. Robert Chapman's heirs are the present owners.

Right above Manning Chapman is the Bethel Water Company reservoir, built by the Water Company in the early 1920s. A start had been made at building a reservoir across the road on what is now Barrie Freeman's land, but it was eventually realized that water will not run up hill

easily (the west side of the road is somewhat higher) and the reservoir was relocated to the present location.

James and Marna McGinniss: In 1965 Al Charest bought this lot from William Chapman and had the house built. In 1971 it was purchased by Ernest and Beverly Packard, who lived here until 1988 when the house was sold to Edward Kennett. After it had been rented briefly, James and Marna McGinniss bought it in 1990 from Mary Jo Kennett.

Keith and Sue Bartlett: The Bartletts bought the land from William Chapman in 1964. Stanley Davis built the house.

John and Cheryl Eliot: Joe Rosenfeld bought this land from William Chapman in the 1960s. Subsequent owners were George Phillipson and William Spangerberg, who sold to Dr. Stephen Garbarini in 1971. John and Cheryl Eliot bought the property in 1975.

Robert and Nancy Chadbourne: The Chadbourne house is directly on the Pinnacle with an unsurpassed view in every direction. This property was bought from Joe Rosenfeld's daughter and represents the terminus of the earlier Gideon Hastings land, which for many years stretched from Broad Street to the Pinnacle up the east side. The Chadbourne house was built by Jimmy Knight in 1989.

THE WEST SIDE OF UPPER PARADISE

In the 1920s and 1930s I remember this side of Upper Paradise as open fields and wooded areas with Mrs. Upson's orchard behind what is now Kay Chadbourne's home. Henry Boyker had a summer camp on what is now our family's property (Tibbetts-Freeman). My sister and I always picked strawberries on the present-day Ronald Kendall-Will Graham lands.

Unlike the east side of the road which was all owned by one family (Gideon Hastings and his heirs) and basically in trees, the west side had, from the 19th century on, a number of owners who seem to have bought either for speculation or in some cases to have attempted some form of farming.

John and Pat Thurston: In 1981, Peter Kailey bought this land from Ed Vachon (who had bought it from Jennie Coburn) and had the house built. In 1986 John Thurston became the owner.

David and Cheryl Thurston: In 1948, the late Ralph Hall bought a good-sized piece of land from Mrs. Upson. The Kay Chadbourne and the Dexter and Jan Stowell properties are both on land which was part of this purchase. The Halls had the present house on their end of the lot built in 1950. They came here in the summer for some years before becoming year-round residents. David Thurston bought the property in late 1991 from the Halls' estate.

This large sunny lot had been owned by Mr. Upson since 1914. He bought it from William Rogers Chapman - "Professor" Chapman as he was usually called, who was an eager participant in real estate dealing. In the period from 1912 to 1914 "Professor" Chapman bought four smaller lots which he combined into the land sold to Mr. Upson, which includes land down over the hill toward the Mill Brook and Mill Pond as well as the sunny fields abutting Paradise Road. These smaller lots were all owned by descendants of former owners.

The principal owners relevant to the Hall-Chadbourne-Stowell lots were Samuel Stowell and his son Martin. In the

1860s Samuel Stowell, a stonemason from Gorham, N.H., bought this area from Elbridge Chapman, one of the prominent businessmen who had invested in upper Paradise land. The Stowells seem to have attempted some farming; there is, however, no large foundation on the property, only a very small one which could have been a shed, near the stone wall between the Halls and Kay Chadbourne. Charles Tuell, a long-time Broad Street resident, told Dexter Stowell that in the 19th century the area was known as "Stowell's Fields." The 1860 census lists the Stowells with a building worth \$200 on the property; by the 1880 census they do not appear as residents, but continued to own the property; among those who sold to "Professor" Chapman was Ida Kinnie, Martin Stowell's daughter.

Kay Chadbourne: In 1964, Ralph Hall sold this lot to Ted Chadbourne who had the house built. Behind the house is what remains of the Upson orchard which flourished in the 1920s and 1930s.

Dexter and Jan Stowell: The Stowells bought this lot from Ralph Hall in 1960. Their home, which was built in 1961, was designed by Stanley Davis and built by George Olson.

Mervin and Tineke Ouwinga: The Ouwingas bought this property from Muriel Faudi in 1987. Muriel and Philip Faudi lived here from 1950 on. She was one of the very first of the present-day residents of Upper Paradise, even before Guy and Madeline Gibbs.

The land came to Mrs. Faudi from her father, Henry Boyker, and is part of the same Boyker property which today belongs to my nephews, Barrie and James Freeman, and to me.

Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Barrie and James Freeman: The present house was built by Mary Tibbetts Freeman in 1974. It was designed by Harlan Hutchins; George Olson was the carpenter. It is on property belonging to the heirs of Dr. Raymond R. Tibbetts, my father, who bought it from Henry Boyker in 1949.

Henry Boyker bought the land in 1918 from Lydia Barker, the widow of Eli Barker whose father, Francis Barker, lived over by the Androscoggin River bridge in the site now occupied by R. Glen "Pat" Murphy. The ferry at this spot was known as Barker's Ferry in Bethel's early days.

The Barkers owned this land on Paradise for much of the 19th century. It seems to have been, in part at least, first owned by Elbridge and Robert Chapman; the name "R. Chapman" is shown on the 1858 map. I can find no deed for the sale of the land to Francis Barker, Eli Barker's father, but the Barkers like the Chapmans, were extensive traders in real estate throughout much of the area, and it may have been part of other transactions. The *Bethel History* notes the sale in 1810 of lot 21 in the second level to Capt. William Barker which would have been in this area on Paradise. But the *History* does not say if Captain William Barker was related to Francis Barker.

In any case, for the second half of the 19th century, this was Barker land. It was probably used for livestock since there are stone walls through the woods. There is no foundation except for a small area, shed size, about opposite John Eliot's property and there are signs of a dug well - but no sign of water - near that foundation. (Livestock could have been watered down over the hill where it is more swampy.) My Father located an orchard grown up in the woods, pre-dating Boyker's tenure, he cut out and

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As the Society begins planning for its second annual Hall Memorial Lecture, we are again reminded of the thoughtful gift of Ralph and Marion Hall. Their bequest has made this outstanding lecture possible each summer. For all of us interested in history, the lecture has become a high point of the year and we are indeed grateful for its existence.

Another Society year has been completed with the annual meeting. It has been a good one on many fronts. I appreciate being re-elected as your president for one more year. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. I look forward to another exciting and challenging year.

Jane W. Hosterman

restored some trees which bear apples today. This must surely have come from the Barker period.

From the 1930s on, our family has had an excellent vegetable garden on Boyker's lot. Also gardening on this spot, which is a splendid garden area, were Fred and Addie Gordon, an elderly brother and sister who lived on Church Street in the present Sam Timberlake house. My parents liked them both very much but despaired of their gardening techniques. My Mother always said that their plot "looked as if they were growing rocks". It is a characteristic of the Upper Paradise area that the soil is very rocky and the gardens which flourish there today represent past hours of picking rocks.

Ronald and Marguerite Kendall: In 1961, Ronald and Marguerite Kendall bought their land from Stella Eames and had their house built. In 1989, Ronald bought additional land below on the west side and had the trees cleared back. The view from his property to the western mountains is one of the most splendid on the Hill.

Will and Marguerite Graham: This land too came originally from Stella Eames bought by Ronald Kendall in 1961 and sold to the Luce Oil people a year or so later. In 1967 the Luces sold to Donald Stecker who had the house built. The Steckers sold to Doctors Om and Usha Wadera who had a medical practice here in the mid 1970s. They sold in 1978 to Barrie Freeman who sold to Will and Marguerite Graham in 1984.

THE BACK OF THE HILL

From the historical point of view this area is perhaps the most interesting part of Paradise. It was the first developed area along Paradise Road and has been continuously settled since 1817. Until the mid-1930s there were working farms here, long after the rest of Paradise had become woodlots, open fields or a residential section of the village. The main families here - Grovers and Crosses - were both prominent in the very earliest of Bethel's history.

Today all of the back of the hill is, like the rest of Paradise, a desirable residential area. Three years ago much of the timber was cut off on the east side of the road and the view towards Mt. Abram much opened. This is the part of Paradise which reminds us that its first name was "The Greenwood Road" since the Greenwood line is right at the foot of the Hill; only a short distance on is the entrance to the Irish Neighborhood with Locke Mills just the other side of the mountain.

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SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	\$3.50
Stationery(package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)	\$2 ea.

Moses Mason House	Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House	Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street"	75¢
"The Family Farm"	75¢
"Made in Bethel"	75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House"	\$1
"Molly Ockett"	\$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill	\$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel)	\$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	\$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	\$6.50
Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four)	\$7.50

Books

Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY	\$5
Heywood, HISTORY OF UPTON, MAINE	\$10
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD	\$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES	\$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER	\$15.95
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850	\$9.95
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK	\$5
W. B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE	\$19.95
King, THE WHITE HILLS	\$18
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE & PERCEPTIONS	\$9.95
Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND	\$29.95
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS	\$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY	\$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC	\$29.95
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND	Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY	\$39.95
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD	\$48
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER	\$5
A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS PORTRAITS	\$25
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES	\$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD	\$50
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	\$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890	\$45
F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$20

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House	10¢ ea.
Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1992	\$7

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(Paradise Road, continued from page 3)

Paradise Road down the Hill is steeper on this side; the pitch by the Harry Faulkner (formerly Cross-Eames) property is sharp and descent is steady from 908 feet at the Pinnacle to 696 feet at Vernon Street. The distance is one mile.

The East side: Going down the East side away from Bethel the first area is the Chadbourne Cemetery established in 1984 on the death of Robert Chadbourne, Jr. The land belongs to Robert Chadbourne, purchased from Stella Eames.

Benjamin and Laura Groce: A new home has just been built (1992) on land purchased from Dr. Phillips of Rumford; this was originally Cross land.

Harry and Lally Faulkner: The location presently occupied by Harry and Lally Faulkner was for many years a Paradise landmark as one of the very early homes. It was occupied for about 140 years by members of the same family, originally the brothers Aaron and Jonathan Cross, subsequently by descendants of Aaron Cross and the Eames family into which Lulu Cross married. The last owner in this line was Stella Eames, widow of Garard Eames, son of Lulu Cross Eames and the great grandson of Aaron Cross. Stella Eames sold to Harry Faulkner in 1980.

The land was probably first owned by Eleazer Twitchell, an early important landowner in Bethel who owned extensive areas all throughout the town. One of his sons-in-law, Jesse Cross, bought properties from him stretching from what is now Vernon Street up over the Hill. Two sons of Jesse Cross, Aaron (born 1807) and Jonathan (born 1817) jointly settled on this land, probably in the late 1830s to judge from deed references. Together they built the house which has been extensively remodelled and partially rebuilt by Harry Faulkner.

In 1853, Jonathan sold his share to his older brother Aaron, referring in the deed to his right to be compensated for his part in building the house and for the stone walls built by the two of them. Aaron Cross thus became the sole owner. His son, Roscoe, born in 1855, inherited the property. Roscoe continued with the purchase of parcels of land, mainly on the west side of the road, so that he eventually owned to the Pinnacle in the east and on the west side up over the Pinnacle down to and including the present Ronald Kendall property.

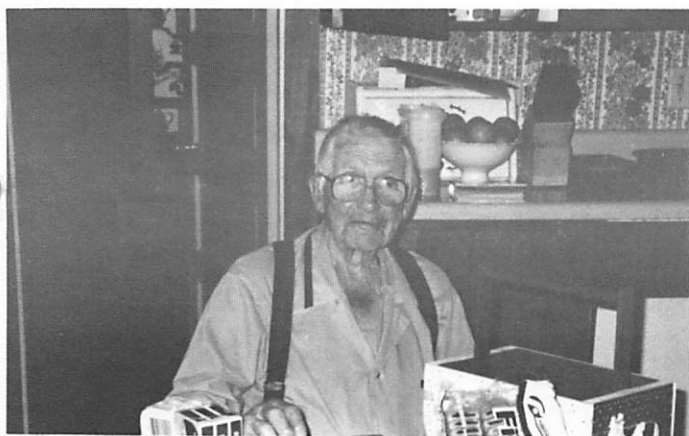
Roscoe Cross was the father of Charles Cross, who succeeded to the property. Charles preferred lumbering to farming and eventually transferred the property to his brother-in-law, True Eames who had married Roscoe's sister, Lulu. Eventually the property went to Lulu's son, Garard, and thence to his widow Stella.

For many years there was on the main lot in addition to the house a large barn and smaller outbuildings. Harry Faulkner's mother-in-law Alice McCallum has built a new house just below her daughter's.

Levi Brown: Down over the hill is a road off Paradise to the left. On the left side of this road is the Levi Brown home, built on land bought from Jay Willard in 1988.

Christopher and Kathryn Harlow: On this same road but on the right side on an entranceway is the home of Christopher and Kathryn Harlow. The house was built for Richard and Frances Harding on land bought from Jay

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ROBERT D. HASTINGS, 1992. Photo courtesy of Barbara Hastings Honkala.

MEMBER PROFILE

ROBERT D. HASTINGS

Robert Decatur Hastings was born in East Bethel 22 May 1899 in the family homestead, the son of George Kimball and Mary Fifield Hastings. He attended local schools and graduated from Gould Academy in 1918. He also attended the University of Maine. He spent his life operating the family farm and was active in the community. He was long a trustee of Gould Academy, chairman of the Board of the Bethel Savings Bank, and a seventy year member of Alder River Grange. One of the leading farmers in the Bethel area, he was also a county leader in the University of Maine's Extension Service. For more than fifty years he served as president of the East Bethel Cemetery Association and also served on the board of the East Bethel Church Association.

A life member of the Bethel Historical Society, he spent his last years reading and researching local history and genealogy. He also recorded a good many of his memories for his children and grandchildren. He was a generous donor to the Society at the time of the dedication of the Dr. Moses Mason House, presenting the organization with a number of artifacts that had once belonged to Dr. Mason. When Bartlett Cemetery, one of the town's oldest burial grounds, was fenced in 1976 to celebrate the American Revolution Bicentenary, he was one of those who volunteered to assist in this project, thereby fulfilling Eva Bean's dream of having a proper enclosure around this "hallowed" ground. He died on 24 October 1992. Through the years, he has been a source of information for those researching the town's past. His keen interest in local history and in the Society will be sorely missed.

EDITOR'S CORNER

The response to the first half of Margaret Joy Tibbetts' article on Paradise has been excellent as it always is with all of her articles that have been published in the COURIER. Two small errors were noted, however, and should be set straight, Ed and Sudie Vachon's house was not built in 1962, but in 1952. Stanley Davis built the Lincoln home on Evergreen Road, not Frank Lowell. I would like to thank our avid readers who pointed out these errors and trust future articles will be given the same scrutiny as we attempt to document the history of our area.

SRH

SOCIETY HOLDS 27th ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. Nathan Hamilton, a University of Southern Maine archaeology professor, was the featured speaker at the 27th annual meeting of the Society held at the Dr. Moses Mason House meeting room. Dr. Hamilton, who holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Pittsburg, described and showed slides of his archaeological investigations of the Androscoggin River area of Maine, both in the uplands and in the coastal areas of the river. Human life more than 10,000 years ago has been documented along the Androscoggin; more research will be necessary, according to Dr. Hamilton, before a fuller picture will be possible.

During the business portion of the meeting, president Jane Hosterman called for a moment of silence to honor all of the members who had died since the last annual meeting. Margaret Davis, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of officers and trustees for consideration by the membership: president, Jane Hosterman; vice-president, Charles Raymond; secretary and clerk of the trustees, Walter Hatch; treasurer, Rebecca Kendall; trustees for three years, Olive Anderson and Barbara Hastings Honkala. All were elected without dissent. President Hosterman praised Mrs. Davis and the other retiring trustee Sylvia Wight for their service on the Board over the past three years.

Mrs. Hosterman reviewed the past year's highlights: successful special events, including Homecoming Day, Bethel History Book Reception (December 7), Heritage Day, Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show, Dr. Moses Mason's Birthday Party, and Sudbury Canada Days. She also cited the holding of two family reunions (Masons and Maine Kimball's), publication of Randall Bennett's BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY, receipt of \$20,000 bequest to establish the Ralph and Marion Hall Special Projects Fund, addition of over 60 new members, the donation of artifacts from over 60 donors, the first annual Hall Memorial Lecture during Sudbury Canada Days, establishment of the Agnes H. Haines Memorial Fund, a successful fund-raising to acquire a microfilm reader/printer, and the receipt of a \$1000 bequest from the estate of Margaret Herrick Oakes. The president congratulated all those who made this record of achievement possible.

Society Director Stanley R. Howe presented the 1992 Marjorie MacArthur Noll Award for Volunteer Service to Elizabeth Mason Carter. Mrs. Carter was honored for her long record of service to the Society, which extends back to the organization's earliest days. She is a charter member, an incorporator, and a volunteer who headed up the annual Homecoming Days in the 1970s. She was instrumental in obtaining National Register status for the Dr. Moses Mason House in 1972, the first such structure so designated in Oxford County. She chaired the Board of Trustees and served as head of the Society's Furnishings Committee (now the Museum Committee) for a number of years. She has generously donated artifacts to the Society and has been a frequent contributor to its endowment campaigns. In recent years, she has been active in organizing family reunions at the Society for the Mason and Kimball families.

IN MEMORIAM

Died, East Bethel, 24 October 1992, Robert D. Hastings, Life Member

Died, Norway, 24 November 1992, Arthur Cummings, Senior Member

Died, Norway, 30 November 1992, Hazel Newell, Senior Member.



Society member Richard Fraser (right), who with his wife, published a book on Maine-made automobiles, holds a 1915 dealer's plate with Elizabeth Mason Carter (left) at the Society's August meeting.

BOOK REVIEW

MY WAY TO ORNITHOLOGY. By Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992. Pp. 260. Cloth. \$24.95). Order from the University of Oklahoma Press, 1005 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73019. Telephone (404)325-5111.

Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. in his autobiography touches many places of interest in the State of Maine. Son of a medical doctor whose roots were in Wayne, Maine, Pettingill provides an interesting account of not only his parents' background, but also details of his early years until 1936 at which time he became a member of the faculty of Carleton College in Northfield, MN.

From his days as a youngster growing up at the Maine Sanatorium in Hebron, Pettingill writes of his interest in birds and how that interest intertwined with other events in his life. Even after the family moved to Middleton, MA, he continued his ties with Maine. Following graduation from high school, he spent a year at Kent's Hill prior to attending Bowdoin College. During the summers, he would spend time at his maternal grandparents home at Belgrade, hike in the Maine woods, vacation at the family camp at Lake Androscoggin, or go on a bird study on some remote island off the Maine coast. Throughout his studies at Bowdoin and later at Cornell, where he completed his graduate work, Sewall was introduced to many well-known ornithologists as well as artists, lecturers, and authors, including Thornton Burgess. These men had a profound influence on Pettingill.

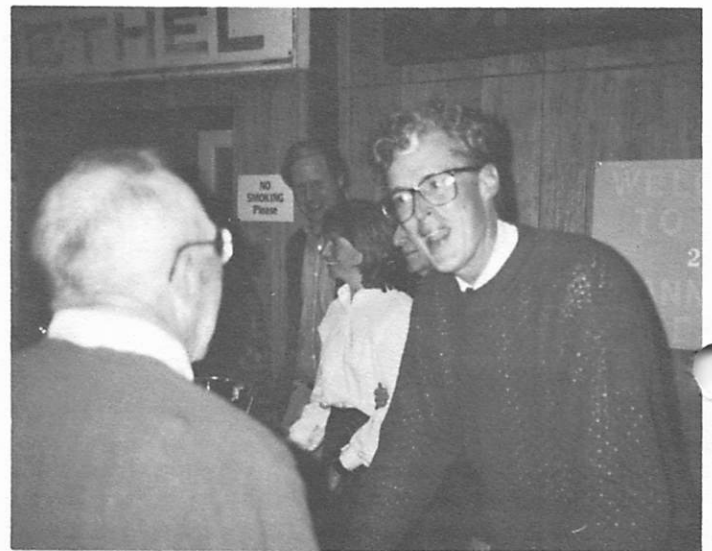
It was during his teenage years that Pettingill met his future wife, Eleanor Rice. She was of great assistance to him in his life's work, providing constant companionship and support, which allowed him to become the well-known author, lecturer, photographer, and respected ornithologist of the present.

Anyone having a love for birds and their life story or who just enjoys a good autobiography will find this book very rewarding.

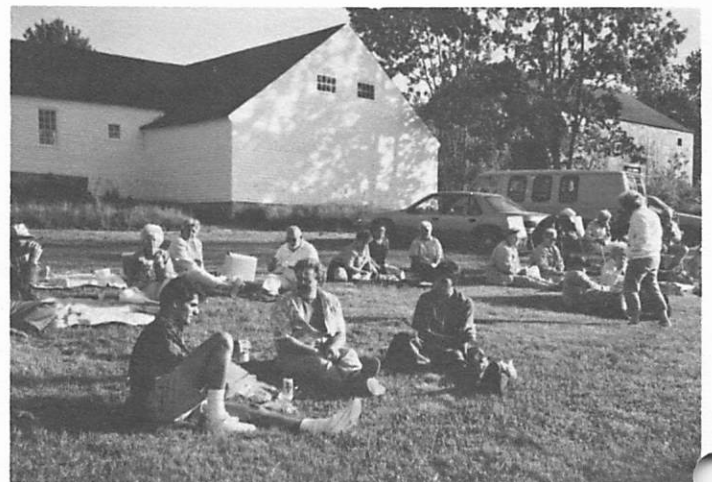
Ben B. Conant, Curator
Paris Cape Historical Society



Society member Louise Seames demonstrates and exhibits the art of basketmaking at the 1992 Sudbury Canada Days, the Society's annual summer heritage festival.



Professor Nathan Hamilton of the University of Southern Maine chats with Society member Ernest Perkins following his presentation on the prehistory of the Androscoggin, which was delivered at the 27th annual meeting.



In July members and their guests traveled to Naramissic in Bridgton to hold the annual picnic and tour the museum with Bridgton Historical Society Director Thomas Johnson.

(Paradise Road, continued from page 4)

Willard in 1970. From 1983 to 1988 the owner was Said Ghassear Telrani. Mrs. Harlow bought it in 1986.

Donald and Gwen Stecher: Back on the main road, across from the Jay Willard property is the home of Donald and Gwen Stecher. The house was built by Ben Warner in 1967 on land acquired from Jay Willard; the property was sold to Donald Stecher in 1978.

Below the Stecher residence the land is owned by the heirs of Jay Willard. There is an excellent garden spot here.

Oliver and Jeanette St. Pierre: Near the end of Paradise is a mobile home type owned by Oliver and Jeanette St. Pierre, which was on Vernon Street. The St. Pierres changed the entrance a few years ago so that it is today a Paradise residence. They have lived there since 1988, buying the property from Elizabeth Blake.

The West Side of the Road, going down from the Pinnacle: The land on and immediately below the Pinnacle on the west side belongs to Robert Chadbourne. There are splendid views of the White Mountains here. The land was purchased from Stella Eames.

Archie and Jane Young: The land was purchased from Stella Eames by Guy and Ruby Rolfe in 1970, and the Rolfes had the house built. Jane and Archie Young bought the property in 1977.

Across from this site Mark Kendall is preparing to build a house.

Emmanuel and Nordia Kay: In 1976, John and Betty Tebbets bought this land from Stella Eames and had the house built to their own design. In 1983 it was sold to the Callonis family from whom the Kays bought it in 1986.

Former School house site: Below the Kays is a small wooded lot which borders a road (the "Peter Grover Road") going in from Paradise to the west. On this lot was the school house, mentioned in Town Reports of the 1830s and which was used probably for some sixty odd years. It appears on both the 1858 and 1880 maps. Bertha Cross Foster, who lived as a child in the old Aaron Cross homestead, remembers playing near an old foundation there in the 1920s.

By about 1890 on the children from that side of Paradise were travelling by school team to the village schools.

The Peter Grover Road: The Peter Grover Road, going off to the left below this little lot, and the property beside it, now the John Gray property, were the earliest settlements on Paradise. Today the road leads in to woodland, owned mainly by the Chadbournes and by John Gray. Only the remains of stone walls show that there was once a farm there. The Town Report, quoted in the *Bethel History*, records that the road was authorized to be built in 1817 for Peter Grover, who had acquired his land from his father Eli Grover, one of Bethel's earliest inhabitants.

From 1817 until his death in 1873 Peter Grover (born 1795) lived here and raised his family; in 1880 his widow and remaining daughters sold the property for \$300 to Pinckney Burnham, a local businessman, and moved to Bethel. My mother remembered snowshoeing to the remains of the old house in 1915 with Dan and Ada Durell. She said it was a very small house with a primitive little barn and hen house. The deeds throughout the years show that it was hard going for Peter Grover - mortgages, liens, frequent selling off of small pieces to successive



Cross-Eames farm, back side of Paradise, ca. 1930s. Photo courtesy of Bertha Cross Foster.

owners of what is now the John Gray house. Among Peter Grover's heirs were the "old twins" Catherine and Catheline who died in 1920/1921 respectively. There was always for the Peter Grover family, regardless of the route taken to and from town, an extra hill fairly steep for the poor horse to climb.

John and Wende Gray: This property is on the main road, right below the Peter Grover road which runs along beside it. It is the oldest currently settled property on Paradise. The land was bought in 1817 by James Grover (born 1793), Peter Grover's brother, also from their father, Eli Grover. There was a house soon built and in 1830 James Grover, who had children by that time, was named to the neighborhood school committee. James Grover also struggled. In 1831 he borrowed money from his uncle, the prominent physician, Dr. John Grover. Part of the terms were that his uncle would eventually get the land upon payment of James' back taxes. In 1849 James conveyed part of the land to his brother, Peter, (who eventually conveyed most of it back to successive owners) and the remainder to his Aunt Judith, widow of John Grover. In 1856, Judith sold the property to Jonathan Cross who had lived across the road and he sold in 1862 to Cyrus Wormell, a prominent local businessman. From the 1858 map and the 1860 census, however, it would seem that James Grover continued to live there and to work the farm.

By the 1880 census James Grover was no longer in Paradise. In 1886, Cyrus Wormell sold the property to Roscoe Cross, his neighbor from across the road. By this time the original house had either fallen down or burned, since the deed speaks of "where buildings formerly stood". In 1895, the property was bought by Eliot Rich who had the present house built. His son, Harold, inherited and lived there until his death in 1982. Thereafter his widow sold it to John Gray.

Don and Ruth Feeney: The Feeneys' land came from Jay Willard, Ruth Feeney's father, in 1975 when they had their house built. There is an old foundation about fifty yards behind this house which may have been an outbuilding for Isaac Cross, the first owner of the Willard place; possibly, however, it was the house of Duane Rose who lived below the present Gray residence for about 25 to 30 years - his name appears on the 1858 map and in the 1880 census.

After his death in the 1880s his children sold his land in part to Isaac Cross and in part to Roscoe Cross who then owned the Gray property.

Heirs of Jay Willard: The third 19th century farm on the back of the hill is the property presently belonging to the heirs of Jay Willard. This was settled by Isaac Cross, probably a relative of the two Cross brothers, who built the present Harry Faulkner house. At the very least, there was a connection through Eleazer Twitchell since Isaac Cross married a granddaughter of Eleazer and the two other Cross brothers were also grandchildren of Eleazer. Isaac may also have acquired some of this land from Eleazer Twitchell. This property was Isaac Cross' property from the early 1830s on. It extends on both sides of the road; if the maps are a clue, the Isaac Cross house was near the present Willard house.

Isaac Cross was an active farmer. In 1879, when he sold his property to Pamela and Tilson Burke, he listed in detail his sleigh, harness, tools, robes, horses, cows, sheep, calves, and swine. Tilson Burke - commonly called Til - built the present house and farmed the property up into the 1930s. I remember going there with my mother about 1931 or so to get cow manure. Til Burke's granddaughter, Emily Forbes, sold the property to Jay and Melva Willard in 1949. One of my favorite sights every spring was Jay's outdoor wood stove boiling sap down for maple syrup - a real Bethel tradition.

Conclusion: In Lapham's *Bethel History* (p. 193) he stated that "Paradise Hill is the pride of Bethel people and no visitor is permitted to go away without seeing it."

The view from the present-day Robert Chadbourne house is a Bethel phenomenon. Thomas Starr King wrote in 1866 that "The height (Paradise) is fitly named. We can now see the wide array of gentle hills swelling so variously that the verdure of the forests, or the mottled bounty of the harvests drooped from them in almost every curve of grace...In the morning or evening light that horizon must include countless pictures which only need selection, and not improvement for the canvas." The view is just as beautiful today. We are fortunate to have so lovely an area so near the village and it is good that on a daily basis both visitors and local people enjoy and appreciate its timeless splendor.

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY **(continued from the last issue)** **by Leslie E. Davis**

From about the time Richard was 12 years old he had a hobby of building boats; he built quite a few for the neighborhood boys as well as for himself; after he got through school at Wentworth Institute I had him build a combination freight and towing boat for our pine logging job on Umbagog Lake.

This was a round bottom, square stern boat about 32 feet long and 9 foot beam; it was built of oak and pine bent ribs; we used it to haul supplies for our logging job and to our log booms down the lake. It was a very sturdy and seaworthy craft.

Probably it was around the year 1931 or a little later that Dean Cunningham brought an aeroplane to Bethel from Farmington and took people up for rides and gave some of the local folks flying lessons. It was kept at West Bethel at the field to the left of the West Bethel Flat Road.

Elmer Bennett, Ray Crockett, and Harold Lurvey, and I think Carmeno Onofrio learned to fly with him. Marie and I took the first aeroplane ride we ever had with him at West Bethel. He also flew off the meadow near the Alder River railroad bridge part of the time. I took one flying lesson but decided to put off the rest of my flying instruction until later, partly for the reason I couldn't afford it, and partly on account of my family.

During all the years that we lived in the old Russell homestead, we continually made alterations for more comfortable living.

After the water system was put in during 1927 and electric service the same year, we had Alton Bacon of Bryant Pond rebuild the kitchen. He combined an old big pantry and a back entry hall by removing the partition between them and added six feet to the north side of the area to make a good sized kitchen with a big slate sink and cupboards. I also had him put in a built-in ice refrigerator. We used the dark old kitchen for a storage and utility room.

During the summer of 1928, I put in a hot air furnace to replace an old brick furnace that was in the cellar; also that same year we put in a bathroom which was quite a step forward in the country in 1928.

The following summer I had Norman Sanborn and Herb Swan build a porch across the west side of the main house and had it screened in. Our next move was to relieve some of the stiffness in the arrangement of rooms in the old homestead. When the house was built all of the rooms in the main house, both upstairs and down, were exactly 12 x 15 feet, and each room had one window in two of walls exactly in the center, and the doors were exactly alike and in the same position in each room. The builders carried precision to the point where they built an extra chimney in one end of the house to match the one that served the brick furnace although it had no flue in it and could not be used.

The front hall had a beautiful stairway in it, but was hardly ever used or seen as it was inconvenient. We tore down the "dummy" chimney and built a fireplace with a real flue which we used a lot. We opened the wall between what was the old-fashioned parlor and the front hall and put in a pair of French doors which made the hall part of the living room; also we put in mullion windows for more light and comfort. In the end we had a living room that was comfortably livable instead of a parlor that was used only for funerals, weddings, and when the minister came to call.

The girls in our family were now reaching the age when they tied up the bathroom from the time they got up until they had to leave for school; anyone who has raised one or more girls knows full well what I mean. It took a lot of fixing up for them to get ready to go anywhere, and it all had to be done in the bathroom, so in self-defense we installed another part bath downstairs.

During the years, we converted a downstairs bedroom into an office with a separate entrance, and about the last major alterations were to raise the roof on the east side of the ell of the house so that all the upstairs bedrooms had higher ceilings and full height windows. The barn also underwent some changes and improvements during these years.

(To be continued in the next issue)



Bowdoin College history professor Sarah F. McMahon delivered the first annual Hall Memorial Lecture as the first event of the 1992 Sudbury Canada Days. The topic of her lecture was "Text and Context: History, Genealogy, and the 1803-1856 Daybook of Joseph Weare, Jr. of York, Maine." Professor McMahon's appearance was made possible from income received from a bequest received in 1991 from the estate of longtime members Ralph and Marion Hall.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the OXFORD COUNTY ADVERTISER, beginning April 30, 1886 is found Judge C. F. Whitman's account of Bethel soldiers during the Civil War:

"It is my purpose to write a truthful narrative of the soldiers of Bethel, who at the demand of their Country, left their pleasant and peaceful homes to face the storm of shot and shell on many a Southern battlefield. The history of each organization will be given in the order in which it went into the service. A large amount of original matter, including official documents, extracts from Rebel letters, anecdotes, etc. will for the first time be given to the public. No town of its size in Maine can show a better war record.
(continued on page 10)



Members of the family of the late Marjorie MacArthur Noll flank the 1992 recipient (holding bowl) Elizabeth Mason Carter, who was honored with the annual volunteer service award named for Mrs. Noll at the 27th annual meeting.



Alden Kennett demonstrates the fine art of dovetailing at this summer's Sudbury Canada Days while Rodney Howe looks on.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRY

Robert Massard, 28 Standish Circle, Wellsley, MA 02181 is interested in collecting material on the Luce family. He also will conduct free searches of his material for anyone with Luce genealogical connections.

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
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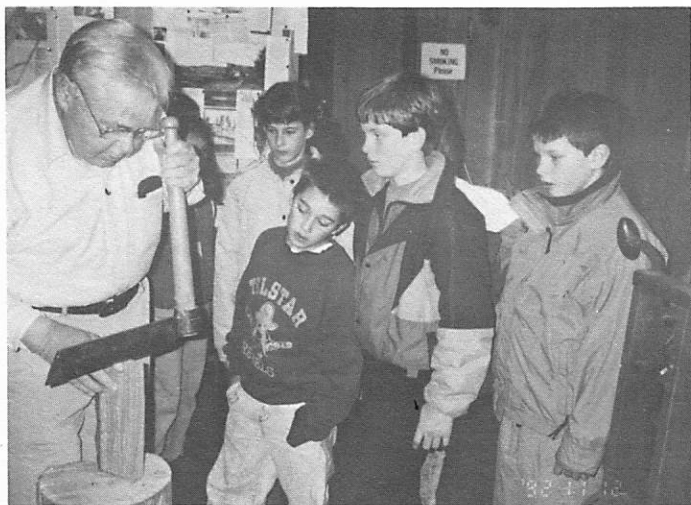
..... Life over 55 years \$75 couple

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Society member Alden Kennett demonstrates the use of a froe to members of the 5th grade social studies class. Students assisted Mr. Kennett in making wooden pegs. They also had opportunities to quilt, stencil, make a basket, grind corn, and tour the Dr. Moses Mason Museum.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Marie Brown, Bethel
 Richard and Rita Davis, Bethel
 Carol B. Hardenbrook, Biddeford
 Robert C. and Helen F. Jones, Sabattus
 Stephen and Ellen Little, Dover, MA
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(The Bethel Soldiers of '61, continued from page 9)

The call to arms found the people of Bethel, unused to war and even the military training of their youth, imperfect though it were, was wholly forgotten. There hadn't been a military organization in that town for years but it raised the first company in Oxford County with the sole exception of the one raised in Norway, which had a company in the militia prior to the war. Hearing that the Company at Norway was going to offer its services to the Government and fearing 'lest they might get left' as one of them expressed it, several citizens went to Norway and enlisted in G.L. Beal's company. About this time the news was received of the riot at Baltimore on the passage of the Sixth Mass. Regt. on its way to Washington, April 19, 1861. One of the slain was Henry S. Needham, a native of Bethel. He was the first man to fall on the Union side. Bethel blood had been shed and this fact served to arouse the people to the highest pitch of excitement. A company was quickly organized, an account of which will be given in the next article.

Henry S. Needham was living in Massachusetts at the time of his enlistment. The G.A.R. Post at Lynn, Mass. is named Needham Post in honor of this soldier who fell at Baltimore."

(To be continued)

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